

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A structural beam member which can be assembled to form a frame for an architectural

structure, comprising;

5 an extruded elongated load bearing element having a plurality of inner walls arranged to define a

cavity;

an elongated reinforcement slat slidably connected to at least one of said plurality of inner walls;

at least one elongated projection fixedly connected to said at least one of said plurality of inner

walls, said slat connected to said at least one of said plurality of inner walls by said at least one projection.

10 2. The member of claim 1, wherein the beam has a generally rectangular cross-section.

3. The member of claim 1, wherein the reinforcement slat is made of metal.

4. The member of claim 1, wherein the reinforcement slat defines at least one secondary projection
for receiving a secondary reinforcement slat.

5. A structural member for making an architectural frame, said structural member comprising:

15 an elongated element having a plurality of outer walls;

at least one of said outer walls defining at least one anchoring member;

a reinforcement slat adapted to be connected to said anchoring member; said slat defining at
least one female receptor for receipt of said at least one anchoring member.

6. The member of claim 5, wherein said element has a generally rectangular cross- section.

20 7. The member of claim 6, wherein the reinforcement slat is made of metal.

8. A support member which can be assembled to form a frame for an architectural structure comprising:

a generally rectangular, hollow, elongated beam;

a reinforcing insert having an elongate length coincident with or less than

5 the elongate length of the beam;

at least one elongated connecting rail integrally attached to an interior wall of the beam;

10 an elongated channel defined by the reinforcing member adapted to engage in inter-fitting relation with said rail.

9. The member of claim 8 wherein said beam has a generally rectangular cross-section.

10. The member of claim 8 wherein the rail and channel form a dovetail-like connection in cross-section.

11. The member of Claim 10 wherein the reinforcing member is made of metal.

12. The member of Claim 11, wherein the beam is made of metal.

13. A method of reinforcing a support member which can be assembled to form a frame for an

15 architectural structure, comprising:

providing an extruded hollow beam which has at least one projecting lug integrally connected thereto;

providing the reinforcing insert defining a recess adapted to mate in inter-fitting engagement with said lug;